

Opera Mundi **EUROPE**

A WEEKLY REPORT ON THE ECONOMY OF THE COMMON MARKET

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Opera Mundi **EUROPE**

A WEEKLY REPORT ON THE ECONOMY OF THE COMMON MARKET

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THE WEEK IN THE COMMUNITY

May 8 - May 14, 1967

From our Correspondents in Brussels and Paris

THE COMMON MARKET

Britain's Chances

At the time of going to press, General de Gaulle's latest pronouncements on the feasibility of Britain entering the Common Market have stirred up yet another wave of surmise and speculation among observers. While stressing once more that a veto is excluded - "Il n'a jamais été question de veto" - the President relented not at all in his insistence on the difficulties and dangers to the Community of too hasty an entry by Britain: indeed, he openly mooted the idea of a long "stand-off" period, after which it might be conceivable to welcome a radically altered - "profondément transformé" - Britain. But the press conference did make a number of things clear: that France is not going to prevent negotiations at this stage, and that the General has not pre-judged the issue, as far as the Rome summit at the end of this month is concerned. Again, as was suspected, the idea of an association formula was put forward: although Mr. Wilson has made much of the "all or nothing" aspect of his formal application, there appears to be some evidence, from those favouring this idea among de Gaulle's advisors, that this idea may have been discussed. There may also be some significance in the fact that the President, in offering his reservations, seemed to place the emphasis on things like agricultural policy, the balance of payments, monetary reform and the position of sterling, problems to which solutions may well be found, rather than on what are thought to be his most fundamental reasons, to which he only alluded - these, we shall look at more closely in our next issue.

With de Gaulle's latest official standpoint now before us, it is possible to weigh some of the motives and forces that are likely to come into play among the countries concerned in the coming months and, perhaps, years. The press conference confirmed that France is unlikely to "kill the British application at birth", and this may well be because she has chosen to play a waiting game. Negotiations for British entry must be approved unanimously by the Six, and de Gaulle appears to be advocating a period of reflection, for a study-in-depth of the problem, as other member countries have done with such issues as the application for association from Spain. One factor of importance here is that the Five seem unwilling to embark upon any formal negotiations until they are sure these will achieve success. Again, and de Gaulle mentioned this on May 16, the formal mandate the Commission would need to reach the negotiating table with Britain could scarcely be granted before the Summer recess, in view of the weight of outstanding problems, such as the executives' merger, which is already on the Community's agenda. Thus the cards are very much stacked in France's favour, if delay is what she really seeks, and there are indications of three main reasons why this should be the case:

1) Bargaining Power: De Gaulle's own position has been undermined appreciably by the legislative elections (even though he played this down in his speech), and although Mr. Wilson seized the initiative with the alacrity of the British debate and subsequent formal application, there are signs, with declining trade figures, the Conservative successes in local elections, holes appearing in the Prices and Incomes policy and so on, that his position, in its turn, is likely to deteriorate. With time, the psychological balance may swing completely the other way. If the interest generated by the debate and Britain's application to join the EEC has time to die down, "anti-marketeers" in Britain may yet find the opportunity to press their point effectively (the General's speech gives this particular faction considerable ammunition), and France could even see Britain pulling out under pressure from the home front.

2) Recruitment: By gaining time, France may also find the opportunity to place the rest of the Community solidly behind her in a mood of antipathy towards the British suit. The forces at work here are the "de facto" solidarity the Six have built up over the years (this "famous edifice" as de Gaulle called it), and Britain's "special relationship" with the USA: the hope is perhaps that, again with time, it may be possible to call Britain's bluff over the international issues touching upon her proposed membership of the Community. It has often been said that the Luxembourg agreement that set the seal on France's reconciliation with the Five was only a token, and that the Community has yet to achieve real solidarity (the aftermath of the "Hallstein Affair", reported below, bears witness to this), but the practical interdependence of the member countries is drawing them ever more closely together, and de Gaulle may be staking a great deal on this. The Kennedy Round is one example: despite considerable pressure from the USA, the Six managed to achieve their final common stand with very little difficulty, and they seem likely to repeat this success in the fields of monetary reform and the non-proliferation treaty. Without mentioning the Vietnam War, it would be fair to say that on such international issues as these, Britain is showing many signs of coming down more on the American side of the fence than on the European. This being so, if the machinery of application is not set in motion for a matter of months, the issue may become heavily weighted by the existence of increased tension between the Americans and the Six: unless Britain alters her present stands in these fields in the meantime, she may well find more than one common market country opposing her application.

3) The Trojan Horse: Should breakdown come in this way, however, the story would be very different from what happened in 1963: there would be no violent political repercussions inside the Community, and not very much likelihood of Britain returning for a third attempt at a later stage (thus Mr. Wilson's early application, and General de Gaulle's counter-move of advocating delay yesterday may well mean that the chief protagonists have placed British membership on a now-or-never basis). Failure this time, would almost certainly mean Britain's partial withdrawal from Europe, and closer commitment to the USA: and although this would give the French President some vindication of the fears he has expressed all along about Britain and America, those very fears would in part be realised by the fact of Washington's influence spreading so close to Europe. This consideration could still save the day for Britain's application, and rather than refuse Britain membership, we may see France keeping the initiative by making acceptance of her into the Community conditional upon some evidence that she has really come out from under the wing of Washington.

Association:

If this is a correct interpretation of French thinking at this time, it would also explain de Gaulle's advocacy of the association formula for Britain, until such time as she was in a position fully to commit herself to the Community without condemning it to complete upheaval and change. Mr. Wilson's dismissal of any such recourse seems emphatic, but if this really is Britain's last chance (to use the language of obsequy, carefully avoided by British politicians at this time), or at least her last chance of anything other than a long, demoralising wait for better-days, then Mr. Wilson may yet settle for the halfway measure of association, the two imponderables here being the extent of de Gaulle's fears of American influence, and the extent of the British commitment to Europe. France's Common Market partners are unlikely to be enthusiastic about the association idea, but they would probably stand by it, mainly, perhaps, out of the desire to avoid further internal strife in the Community. The prospect of protracted talks on any recourse other than association, and the stultifying effects these can have, could prove to be one inducement to the Five to acquiesce in the French proposal.

The Rush to Join: It is also clear that some of those inside the Community are worried about the effect of the British bid and the great number of countries who have now taken the plunge. On the same day as Britain applied, Ireland and Denmark put in their bid. Norway will follow on June 16th, whilst Sweden has just announced that she will apply for association, and Switzerland will probably made a move as well. Austria is already involved in negotiations, whilst Turkey has let it be made known that she would like to speed her development to associate status, and despite all the protests from various quarters it is unlikely that the association with Greece will be broken off. The Spanish question has to be dealt with, and Finland may also create problems if the other Nordic countries become linked to the Community. In fact the only European state which does not appear to be causing problems for the Common Market is Portugal.

New Members and Internal Changes: This tidal wave of applications and intentions is a testimony to the Six as a pole of attraction, but its effect, as General de Gaulle warned, might be to bring down the Community. Circles in Brussels are quite worried by all this, since the EEC has a number of important internal problems to be solved. Even if the definitions of some common policies can be postponed, the problems created by the merger of the executives cannot. The first of these is to redistribute and reshape the work of the two Commissions and the High Authority, which in itself is a highly complex task. How can this be successfully done if, within a year or eighteen months, everything has to be restarted because another two, three or even four countries have joined the Community? Furthermore the merger of the executives should lead to a merger of the Communities within three years, and this may mean revising the texts of the Treaties. In other words, any negotiations with prospective partners starting now, might involve treaties which have been changed when talks are brought to a conclusion.

Association rather than Transition: This brings one to the French suggestion of association, which they have stressed since Mr. Wilson, unlike the Danes, has himself stated the necessity for a transitional period before full application of all the Community's rules. Although the basic reasons were different, this is what both the Greeks and Turks requested as their national economies were not able to withstand the effect of an immediate customs and economic union with the Six. The French feel that if Britain were granted a transitional period and joined immediately, she would have similar rights to the existing members of the Six to influence policy without having the same obligations, and this would be inequitable.

Support from the Five: There is reason to believe that some of France's partners might well be influenced by such arguments. The attitude of General de Gaulle to this point - whether association should automatically or conditionally lead to full membership - will probably depend considerably on the stand taken by the Five. And here the French leader's support from increased Community co-operation during the Rome summit may well have a decisive role.

No Hurry for Negotiations: Despite General de Gaulle's press conference, Britain intends to pursue her bid for membership without delay. However, responsible quarters in Brussels do not believe that formal negotiations will start for some time. This may well be a disappointment for Mr. Wilson, but it is not necessarily a victory for French diplomacy, in that the Five do not allow the French President complete freedom of movement to destroy the British bid, when he sees fit to do so. Momentum can be maintained through bilateral discussions or exploratory conversations with the Commission if the latter is granted a mandate.

One thing, however, does emerge: Britain does not seem likely to become a member of the European Economic Community overnight, and the next few months will test both the wills and beliefs of governments.

* * *

THE KENNEDY ROUND

Success at Last

On Monday evening, after the final deadline had been held by the Common Market device of stopping the clock at just before midnight on Sunday, the Kennedy Round was brought to a successful conclusion. The four years of talks have demonstrated the change on the world's trading powers over the past ten years as it became clear that the two major blocs involved were the Common Market countries - represented by a single representative M. Jean Rey - and the USA, with Britain, Japan and the Scandinavians in the second rank, closely followed by Canada and Australia. The remaining 40-odd states have seen the major groups sort things out amongst themselves and some observers feel the developing countries may believe they have been hard done by.

Overall Scope: When the Kennedy Round started it was hoped that there might be 50% across the board tariff cuts, and although the developments over the last few months have not tended to encourage optimistic thinking of this kind, it does now seem that the cuts will be considerably more than was hoped for a few weeks ago. First estimates indicate that there will be an average weighted tariff reduction of between 35% - 40%, and that something approaching £14,000 million of world trade will be affected.

Chemicals: One of the major problems during the last few weeks was that of the American Selling Price protection system for US benzenoid chemicals, based on the prices existing in the American market rather than those declared by importers. This was under attack from the Common Market, Switzerland and Britain. The Americans have now agreed that 50% and higher cuts on chemicals to bring rates down to 30% for dyestuffs and 20% for other chemicals. As this needs the approval of Congress, reciprocal cuts will be made by Britain and the EEC when Congressional approval has been obtained. This means that EEC tariffs will go down by 20% in the first stage and then down by 30%, whilst Britain has made average cuts of 56%. The EEC have also agreed to reduce taxes on large cylinder cars (normally American) and Britain will admit increased numbers of US films for TV.

Agriculture: The price of hard winter wheat has gone up by a fifth to \$1.73 a bushel at the American Gulf Ports, and although this could affect British costs, it is in fact below the price now being paid. One of the most important steps is the adoption of a World Food Aid programme under which the rich industrialised countries will back the cost of 4.5 million tons of cereals for the developing countries. This will be borne by the USA (43%), the EEC (23%), Canada (11%), Britain, Australia and Japan (the latter provisionally 5% each).

Steel: The question of steel tariffs made the British delegation the subject of attack during the final week as the Community wanted larger reductions than Britain was then prepared to give for low quality steels, and they were accused of not having a Community spirit, after a British application to join the EEC had been made. However, the negotiations finally resulted in British tariffs on steel coming down from between 12% to

15% to something near 10%, whilst the Community which raised its own tariff walls a few years ago to protect its ailing steel industry, will bring its barriers down to their original 7%. The British had offered to cut their tariff on special steels but this did not interest the Community since it was mainly the USA which exported special steels to Britain.

Unity of the Six

It became apparent during last week's meeting of the EEC Council of Ministers that the Kennedy Round was really producing co-operation amongst the Six on an almost unprecedented scale. In other words M. Jean Rey, the Commission Vice-President responsible for foreign affairs was given wide powers by the Six to negotiate on their behalf and the French Minister of Agriculture M. Edgar Faure, went so far as to say "M. Rey is able to negotiate as if he were the representative of a single state." The Six were able to deal with the questions in spirit of mutual confidence, and here the constructive attitude of the French - who at the start had wanted nothing to do with the Kennedy Round - played an important role. In short, one can say that these negotiations have to a considerable extent helped to foster unity among the Six.

Finally, Mr. Wyndham White, the Director-General of GATT, should be mentioned as his efforts during the last few hectic days played a major part in achieving the successful outcome of the negotiations, especially his call for sacrifices of equal brutality from the leading countries involved.

* * *

Preparations for the Rome summit meeting

The diplomatic contacts which took place at the EEC Council meeting on May 10 and 11, have confirmed that the European summit meeting in Rome will not be the occasion for any spectacular political leap forward in the Community. They also brought to light several differences between the member states, arising in particular out of the Hallstein affair, though it is clear that nobody is going to make them the pretext for open controversy.

Limited Scope: The programme for the Rome meetings, so far as it has been fixed at the moment, is anything but ambitious. On May 30 there will be a meeting in the Capitol, lasting a full hour, to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the signature of the Rome Treaty. On the following day General de Gaulle and his partners will meet for discussions. This will be the real summit meeting, but it will only last for a morning, giving everybody enough time to make out their case, but not enough for manoeuvre. This is a bloodless victory for the Benelux countries, who have always been sceptical about the opportunities for initiative offered by Signor Fanfani's original proposal for a meeting, and they have now succeeded in reducing the scope of the meeting to a minimum.

Executives' merger: Undoubtedly the British application and the merger of the three executives will be discussed. Talks between the chancelleries on the merger are now in full swing and it is thought that the heads of state will be in a position to give the green light to their foreign ministers on May 31 and that the latter's decision will be made in Brussels on June 5.

Hallstein's Successor: The heart of the problem is the identity of the chairman of the unified Commission. To take the present state of play, point by point -

Re-Appointment? On May 11, the EEC Commission through its vice-president, Lionello Levi-Sandri, asked the Council to reconsider the position of Walter Hallstein. In view of the problem of reorganisation raised by the merger, the Commission believes Professor Hallstein, with his wide experience, should definitely remain as President for a further two years. There does not appear to be any desire in Bonn to persuade him to withdraw his resignation and it is difficult to see how France could suddenly turn round and agree to give him more than six months. Indeed, still on May 11, M. Couve de Murville opposed the idea that the president of the EEC Commission should speak at the commemorative meeting in Rome.

Protocol: Here, the differences between the partners begin to appear. The present chairman of the EEC Council, the Belgian representative has been asked to speak at this meeting. The invitation has been accepted by Brussels, but on condition that Professor Hallstein should also speak (it being understood that the text of his speech should be available in good time beforehand and that he should say nothing controversial). The Belgian government made the point that, in their reconciliation agreement in Luxembourg, the Six agreed that the Communities had a dual executive, consisting of the Commission and the Council; hence, if the president of the one was asked to speak in Rome, the same invitation should be extended to the other. In this case why should it be Professor Hallstein and not Pierre Chatelet? The answer from Brussels is that, firstly, the president of the EEC Commission has held office considerably longer than the Euratom president; secondly, according to the agreement on precedence existing between the two presidents, 1967 is Walter Hallstein's year. The Belgians also pointed out that Hallstein's resignation had done much to smooth out the psychological problems which threatened the Rome meeting; this view was supported by all the other partners except France. However, since no formal approach had been made to him and in view of the obvious impropriety of a plain refusal, Couve de Murville merely promised to think it over. This is an indication that any change in the French attitude to the Hallstein affair is highly unlikely and that the Commission's appeal on behalf of its former president was chiefly a gesture.

An Italian? What are the chances of Hallstein's replacement being an Italian? On May 11 the Italian representative confirmed previous rumours that Italy would put up one or several candidates. Italy had acquired some sort of priority in this business, but this has gradually been dissipated by recriminations between the Italian personalities involved. It can also be said that neither West Germany nor the Benelux would entertain an Italian candidate who did not possess the political strength of character necessary to head up a

unified Commission. Nor does it appear that Rome would be offended by an objectively based refusal. There is therefore still the possibility of an Italian president, but it is far from being a certainty.

Sicco Mansholt: If the Italian candidate fails, the Netherlands will offer Sicco Mansholt, a choice which would be immediately supported by their Benelux partners. But there is still doubt about his success; in some countries he is reproached with having publicly criticised the actions of certain governments in the past, a breach of his obligation to be discreet. It is also thought certain that Mansholt wants to stay in control of European agriculture and this would not be very compatible with his onerous duties as president.

Jean Rey? Once more, by the process of elimination, we arrive at Jean Rey. Belgium, which already has the chief seat of the Community institutions within its boundaries, is not asking for any more, but she would put up her candidate, with the Netherlands and Luxembourg, if no prior agreement could be reached on an alternative. The nomination of Jean Rey would be very favourably viewed by Paris and Bonn and, wearing the halo of his conduct at the Kennedy Round, his chances appear very good, provided he holds out until the last minute.

Little Hope of Success: The last remaining question is whether the final Hallstein incident has prejudiced the chances of a positive Rome summit and the hopes of a merger. The answer to this must be in the negative. The Belgian government, the first to put the problem, believes that loyalty to the Community's institutions should not go beyond the bounds of common sense, and that it would be most inappropriate to initiate a crisis on what is already past at a moment when it is more than ever vital for the Europe of the Six to concentrate on its future and its enlargement. If, in spite of every pressure, Paris refuses to let Walter Hallstein speak, attempts will be made in Brussels to find a face-saving formula. Either the prime minister, van den Boeynants, will also refuse to speak, or, having received the representatives of the Commissions, he will speak in the name of both branches of the European executive.

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ADVERTISING

** The New York RUDER & FINN INC (see No 307), one of the leading US public relations firms, has extended its coverage of Italy by opening a Milan branch to its Rome subsidiary RUDER & FINN ITALIANA Srl. The latter was formed in July 1966 with a capital of Lire 900,000. Originally headed by Sig. Walter Vincintelli, it is now run by Sig. Marcello Clausi.

The American firm has a subsidiary in the United States, Ruder & Finn International Inc, which itself has representatives or branches in numerous foreign countries, including Geneva, Brussels, London, Paris, etc. In 1965 an agreement was signed with the Italian financial information agency Guida Monaci SpA, Rome, which resulted in the formation of a public relations and advertising concern called Ruder & Finn-Guida Monaci SpA, headed by Sig. Fabrizio Ossella.

** The Italian publisher Giovanni Bordofi has taken a 40% interest in the formation of the Milan advertising and marketing company O.P.B. INTERNATIONAL SpA, of which he is the sole director. The new company (capital Lire 5 million) will carry out research and development as well as printing promotional packaging. It is controlled by the Milan concern I.S.F. SpA (capital Lire 500 million).

AEROSPACE

** The French Government appears to have been successful in getting two of France's privately-owned aircraft manufacturers G.A.M.D. -GENERALE AERONAUTIQUE MARCEL DASSAULT Sarl, Saint-Cloud, Hauts-de-Seine (see No 404) and BREGUET AVIATION SA, Paris (see No 400) to merge. Dassault will take over Breguet on condition that the Government places sufficient orders for the concerns to keep going. The changeover will take place through Ste Financiere Aigle-Azur SA, Paris, the legal director of Breguet Aviation (capital recently increased to Ff 26.48) which will be acquired by Dassault from the Floirat group (see No 380).

** The French aircraft group SUD AVIATION (see No 406) has bought out the share held by ATLAS CORP, New York in their joint subsidiary SERIMA -Ste d'Entretien & de Reparation Industrielle de Materiel Aeronautique, Saint-Cloud, Hauts-de-Seine (see No 289), thereby gaining outright control. This aircraft servicing company was formed in 1960 (capital Ff 50,000) as a joint venture by the French company SFERMA (recently absorbed by Sud Aviation) and the American International Aircraft Service Inc which became a Division of Atlas Corp at the end of 1963.

Atlas has also sold its other French subsidiary (through International Aircraft Service) the Ste The Babb Co Sarl, Paris (capital Ff 50,000) and is now solely represented in the country by Promesur SA, Paris (see No 243).

**

The German company DORNIER WERKE GmbH, Friedrichshafen, which has just made a proposal for the whole of the West German aircraft industry to be concentrated within a new company called Deutsche Flugzeugunion, GmbH (see No 408) has signed an agreement covering the manufacture and sale of helicopters with the American HUGHES TOOL CO, Culver City, California.

The latter makes two-seater (Hughes 269 A) and three-seater (Hughes 300) helicopters, and is a sister company of Hughes Aircraft Co, Culver City, California, which also has interests in two West German firms Eltrughes Stahlungstechnik GmbH, Heidelberg, and Elektronische & Luftahrtgeräte GmbH Elekluf, Bad Godesberg, (see No 359).

AUTOMOBILES

**

Further to the Detroit CHRYSLER group's decision, two years ago, to establish an international joint sales organisation (see Nos 330 and 407) for its two main European subsidiaries, STE DES AUTOMOBILES SIMCA SA, Paris, and ROOTES MOTOR LTD, London, the French company's West German and Italian subsidiaries will take over Rootes' export marketing and servicing arrangements in those countries, as from July.

Deutsche Simca GmbH, Frankfurt, which has 800 agencies and main dealers in West Germany, will take over imports, distribution and after-sales services for all Rootes vehicles except those supplied to the British forces, which will continue to be handled by Rootes Autos Deutschland GmbH, Düsseldorf. In Italy, Simca Italiana SpA, Turin, which will be taking over the same sides of the business there, has over 250 agencies, and it will take over the activities of Rootes Italia SpA, Torre Velasca, Milan.

BUILDING & CIVIL ENGINEERING

**

The Milan prefabricated building materials concern (wood, metal and plastics) I.P.I. SpA, has formed an Austrian sales subsidiary called IPI INDUSTRIEANLAGEN PLANUNG GmbH, with a capital of Sch 480,000. Its two managers Herren Paul Czernin and Johann Nitschinger, both come from Vienna.

The Italian company is controlled by the Swiss holding Betunad AG, Beteiligungen & Administrarionen, Zug, and has a 50% share in several foreign companies: Niepce I.P.I. - International Sarl, Paris with Ets Henry Niepce SA, Boulogne, Billancourt, Hauts-de-Seine; I.P.I.-Gielissen Holland NV, Eindhoven (see No 272) with the local business man Lambertus H. Gielissen; I.P.I.-London Ltd., London formed in 1963 with Mercury Displays Ltd.

**

Herr Johan M. Schuller, a German living in Milan, is the only director of a property development and civil engineering concern J. M. SCHULLER ORGANISATION SpA (capital Lire 1 million), recently formed in Milan. The Liechtenstein holding company REFIBA CO LTD, Schaan, has a 49% interest in the concern.

** The French ETS SELLIER LEBLANC SA, Bourg-la-Reine, Hauts-de-Seine (trading in liquid and solid fuels and distributing drinks) has further diversified its interests in the building materials and aggregates sector by gaining control of the Bondy concrete company, SOPEAL-STE PARISIENNE D'ETUDES & D'APPLICATIONS DES LIANTS SA (see No 271), and of other member companies of the group: SOFEAL-STE FRANCAISE D'ETUDES & D'APPLICATIONS DES LIANTS SA, Bondy, and BOULET & CIE Sarl, Torceron, Cher-et-Bondy.

M. Marc Merillon recently took over from M. Pierre Boulet as president of SOPEAL, which has branches in Nevers and Bischwiller, and which recently formed links with the Pont-a-Mousson group. A few months ago (see No 391), it embarked upon negotiations to be bought up by the Dutch Verenigde Bedrijven Bredero NV, Utrecht (which has just purchased a large minority shareholding - see No 405 - in the French civil engineering concern Entreprise Fougerolle SA, which increased its capital to Ff 21.88 million).

Ets Sellier Leblanc (capital Ff 4.08 million, and total sales of Ff 120,040,000 in 1966), has, by the current move, expanded its materials and aggregates division considerably: this division uses part of its yards at Bourg-la-Reine, Aubervilliers, Gagny and Goussainville. In this field, too, it has increased sales of crushed slag for use in footings and road foundations, while for production, it has bought interests in Ste des Carrieres de Necy SA, Orne; Ste des Carrieres de Vignats SA, Calvados, etc.

** The French COFOR - CIE GENERALE DE FORAGES SA (land clearance, excavation and drilling) is to take over and absorb a similar company called INTRAFOR-INJECTIONS, TRAVAUX PUBLICS & MINIERES FORAGES SA (see No 356); both are based in Paris. A form of agreement has already been approved, and this contains the nomination of COFOR's president, M. D. Bullot, for the position of director general in INTRAFOR, whilst M. Peyrat, chairman and managing director of INTRAFOR has been appointed director general of COFOR.

The latter has Ff 7.36 million capital, and was formed in 1957 with Ff 4.5 million capital shared as follows: Ste Lyonnaise des Eaux & de l'Eclairage SA - 34%; Banque de Paris & des Pays-Bas - 8.25%; and SOFIFT-Ste Financiere & Industrielle Franco-Tunisienne SA - 16.5%; the balance is shared between a number of French insurance companies. It controls Tech-Sol-Cie Generale des Techniques du Sol SA, Paris, and in recent years has absorbed such companies as: l'Hydraulique Afrique-Tunisie SA, Tunis (capital 85,000 dinars), which specialises in Layne processes for open-cast mining; Ste Francaise de Forages Layne SA, and Entreprise Rhodanienne de Terrassements & Puits SA, Lyons.

INTRAFOR (president M. Georges Matheron) is itself linked with SOGEI-Ste Generale d'Exploitation Industrielle SA, Paris (see No 358); Venot-Pic SA, Onnaing, Nord (see No 396); Cie Generale de Geophysique SA, Paris (see No 384); FOREX - Forages & Exploitations Petrolieres SA, Paris (see No 371), and belongs to the Ste Generale d'Entreprises SA group (see No 407). In 1965, it absorbed Cie d'Operations Hydrauliques Sarl, Paris (formerly Hydra Sarl, a 50-50 joint subsidiary with Ff 100,000 capital, of Forex and Generale de Geophysique), which raised its interest in the Spanish Eurinsa SA from 20% to 32.5%.

CHEMICALS

** The American group THE BEACON CO, Cambridge, Massachusetts, (see No 344), which makes chemical products and raw materials for the rubber, paper, varnishes and plastics industries, has wound up its Milan sales subsidiary, BEACON ITALIANA SpA, and Sig. V. Bisocchi Visconti has been appointed liquidator. This was formed at the end of 1963 in conjunction with local interests headed by Sig. G. F. Barazzetta (50%) and the holding company Ussaro V. Anstalt, Vaduz.

The Beacon Co shares with another American group, Carter Wallace Inc, New York, control of a British manufacturer of varnishes, caustics and polishes, Beacon Household Products Ltd, Folkestone, Kent.

** The French firm STE DES VERNIS BOUVET SA, Tournus-Beau-Soleil, Saone & Loire, has backed the formation in Spain of BOUVET ESPANOLA SA, which will run a factory at Larragaua - in the Betono, Vitoria industrial complex - making paints, varnishes, and allied chemical products.

In 1965 the French firm (capital Ff 1.75 million) gained control of L.D.F. - Les Diluants Francais SA, Montreuil-sous-Bois, Seine-St-Denis (capital Ff 80,000). The latter also makes varnishes and paints, for the furniture industry and has an annual turnover of Ff 10 million.

** The French firm DEGREMONT SA, Rueil-Malmaison, Hauts-de-Seine, which is re-organising its West German interests around a new 80% Stuttgart subsidiary PHILIPP MULLER oHG (see No 403) has sold to German interests its shareholding in the water purification company RWW-FILTER GmbH, Ratingen (see No 252).

Following the resignation of M. Christian Gelin, Herr Werner Grün remains as sole manager of the latter, and its capital has been raised from DM 750,000 to DM 1 million. With a payroll of around 100, it has an annual turnover approaching DM 5 million.

** The French chemical traders VECOM FRANCE SA (see No 333) formed in Rouen in 1965 by VECOM INTERNATIONAL, Luxembourg (see No 349) has been dissolved following the transfer of its business to the German company Vecom GmbH Vertriebsgesellschaft für Vecom-Erzeugnisse, Bremen.

** SABECH-SA BELGE D'ENGRAIS CHIMIQUES (see No 290), a member of the Belgian "de Launoit" group, mainly through the Brussels investment company Mutuelle Mobiliere SA (capital Bf 50 million; president Comte Paul de Launoit) has sold its long-standing holding in the British company E. NICKERSON & CO LTD, Grimsby, Lincs.

SABECH (capital Bf 23 million; president M. Arsene de Launoit) is also owned 6.82% by Evence Coppee, through Ste Metallurgique d'Esperance-Longdoz SA, Liege (see No 377). Its main interests are in Potasco SA, Marchienne-au-Pont, a joint subsidiary with Cockerill-Ougree-Providence SA, as a former affiliate of Forges de la Providence; Sabfran SA, Liege; Engrais Complexes ASSED SA, Brussels and Cie Des Mines & Metaux SA, Luxembourg.

** ACHESON INDUSTRIES INC, Port Huron, Michigan (see No 398), which makes "Dag" dispersed colloids and "Emralon" polytetrafluoroethylene, has formed a Milan sales subsidiary ACHESON ITALIANA Srl (capital Lire 900,000) with Mr. M. S. Mackenzie as manager.

Acheson Industries was formed in 1908 by Messrs. Thomas E. Edison and Edward G. Acheson, and first extended its interests to Europe in 1956, when it formed a Dutch manufacturing subsidiary, Acheson Colloiden NV, Scheemdam, to supply all the markets of Continental Europe. The group recently gained control of Liqui-Moli GmbH, Ulm-Donau (changed to Deutsche Acheson) making special and molybdenum lubricants. It has had interests in Britain since 1910, and these include the holding company Acheson Industries (Europe) Ltd, which controls Acheson Colloids Ltd, Plymouth, Devon, with its branch Acheson Dispersed Pigments, Dukinfield, Cheshire, and also heads the Dutch subsidiary.

** TANATEX CHEMICAL CORP., Lyndhurst, New Jersey (chemical products for textiles, paper and leather as well as dyes for synthetic and polyester textiles - see No 364), has made its Dutch subsidiary, TANATEX CHEMICAL (HOLLAND) NV, Amsterdam, (see No 357) responsible for its marketing arrangements in France. As a result, the latter has signed an agreement with SAPCHIM FOURNIER CIMAG SA, Paris, which has led to the establishment of TANATEX SAPCHIM Sarl (capital Ff 20,000). The American company has been in the Netherlands since 1959, and its Amsterdam subsidiary (formerly at Laren) is headed by M. H. L. Barentz. The latter has an international marketing company, Tanatex International NV (formed in 1966) with a Belgian branch at Wilrijk, Antwerp, and since February 1967 it has had a British subsidiary, Tanatex Chemicals Co Ltd (capital £5,000).

Its French associate makes organic synthesising products for industrial and pharmaceutical use, and chemical products at Sisteron, Basse-Alpes, as well as having a research laboratory at Villeparisis, Seine-et-Marne. It is controlled by S.B.A.-Ste Belge de l'Azote & des Produits Chimiques du Marly SA, Liege (see No 405), and C.G.I.F.E.-Cie Generale Industrielle pour la France & l'Etranger SA (see No 387); it has a direct shareholding in Ste Francaise des Laboratoires Labaz SA, which is controlled by the same Belgian and French groups.

** With the aim of taking part in the development of the Saarbrücken chemicals firm OXYSAAR HUETTENSAUERSTOFF GmbH, the publicly-owned coal group SAARBERGWERKE AG, Saarbrücken (see No 387), has taken a 25% interest. The former, under an agreement between L'Air Liquide SA, Paris and Messer Griesheim GmbH, Frankfurt (see No 407), is responsible for building and running an oxygen plant. Saarbergwerke now becomes the partner of Griesheim, which has a controlling interest.

ELECTRONICS

** STE RADIO BELVU SA, Malakoff, Hauts-de-Seine (45% linked with Ste Lyonnaise des Eaux & de l'Eclairage SA, Paris - see No 406 and this issue - and Lebon & Cie Scs, Paris - see No 393), has reorganised its electronic components

interests: 1) It has absorbed its Courbevoie, Hauts-de-Seine subsidiary S.T.A.R.E. - Ste Technique d'Appareillage Radio-Electrique SA (capital Ff 1 million), which markets variable and adjustable condensers, adjustable ceramic reducing frames etc. under the "Star" marque, and will thus increase its capital, which currently stands at Ff 14.76 million. 2) It has made over its trading interests in the sector to C.I.F.T.E. - Cie Industrielle Francaise des Tubes Electroniques SA, Courbevoie, which it controls 50-50 with Cie des Lampes SA, Paris (see No 401) - which has made a parallel move. CIFTE's Ff 14.7 million capital will, in its turn, be thus increased.

Cie des Lampes' recent moves in France include the raising from Ff 2 to 6 million of the capital of the subsidiary it formed at Levallois-Perret in December 1965, on the premises of its division Lampes Orsant, under the name of E.T.A. SA. This has a branch at Nevers, and is for the manufacture and distribution of ancillary lighting equipment, transformers, current regulators, etc. Cie des Lampes has Ff 47.88 million capital, and is controlled by C.G.E. - Cie Generale d'Electricite and Cie Francaise Thomson-Houston Hotchkiss-Brandt.

** GENERAL TELEPHONE & ELECTRONICS CORP (see No 404) plans to increase its industrial potential in the Common Market by building two factories in Belgium. In Brussels, it already controls SYLVANIA BENELUX SA (formerly Ets Andre P. Closset SA - see No 395). The two plants will be put up at Tienen by Daniel Constructions Co, Greenville, South Carolina, whose international division has had a branch in Brussels for three years (see No 375), and from 1968 they will produce colour TV tubes and flash bulbs.

** The American company ALPHA METALS INC, Jersey City, New Jersey, has strengthened its Italian interests by forming ALPHA METALS ITALIANA Srl (capital Lire 300,000) with Messrs. H. Hertzog, R. R. Shonberg and H. Hyman, London, as directors. The new company will specialise in preparing metals, soldering and other raw materials for semi-conductors.

With branches in Chicago and Los Angeles, the American firm has a branch in London under Mr. Harold Hyman. It has several agents or representatives in the Common Market, and has been represented in Italy since 1965 by AMLICO SpA, Milan, and in France by Europrim-Cie Europeenne de Machines Pour Circuits Imprimés, Malakoff, Hauts-de-Seine.

** The Californian electronics group LITTON INDUSTRIES INC, Beverly Hills (see No 403), has strengthened its Belgian interests by making the Belgian branch (since July 1966) of its London subsidiary Westrex Co Ltd, into a company called WESTREX CO BELGIUM SA (capital Bf 100,000), which is almost totally controlled by the Zurich holding concern Litton International SA.

The American firm already has numerous Belgian interests: Litton Benelux SA, Brussels SA, Swada Belgium SA, Molenbeek-St-Jean, Decotome Belgium SA, Brasdrat and Hewitt-Robins International SA, Brussels.

** A subsidiary of CIE GENERALE DE GEOPHYSIQUE SA, Paris (see this issue), which carries out both research (into mathematics and physics) and development of scientific equipment (geophysical radio equipment, seismic detection instruments, watering devices, recording and amplifying equipment) SERCEL-STE D'ETUDES, RECHERCHES & CONSTRUCTIONS ELECTRONIQUES, Montrouge, Haugs-de-Seine has begun negotiations with various firms aimed at enlarging its business, especially its manufacture of laboratory instruments. With a capital doubled from Ff 1.5 million to Ff 3 million when it changed from a Sarl (private limited company) to SA (public limited company) it recently granted a manufacturing and sales licence for industrial anti-theft warning systems to the London Burgot Automatic Alarms Ltd.

For its part Cie Generale de Geophysique recently backed the formation of Geoterrex Ltd, Canada in conjunction with Terra Survey Holding Ltd.

** The American scientific instrument specialists (mainly oscillographs) TEKTRONIX INC, Portland, Oregon has gained control of its French distributor RTI-RELATIONS TECHNIQUES INTERCONTINENTALES SA, Paris through its holding company in Zug Tektronix International whose capital was raised from Sf 4 to 16 million in February of this year. RTI's capital was increased from Ff 6.65 to 10 million in February 1965 when it absorbed its subsidiary C.A.I. -Cie d'Assistance Industrielle Sarl (capital Ff 325,000). The French company is the agent for several companies specialising in micro-wave tubes and components, measuring and laboratory instruments, etc including American Research Inc, Farmington, Connecticut; Sperry Gyroscope, Brentford and Tektronix Holland, Heerenven, one of the American group's two Dutch subsidiaries.

In November 1966, Tektronix gained outright control of Telequipment Ltd, London which was the first company to market inexpensive oscilloscopes. In Japan, it has a subsidiary called Sony-Tektronix Co Ltd (capital £100,000) in association with the Japanese electronics and radio group Sony, Tokyo which handles Far East distribution of the products of both parents under a reciprocal licensing arrangement.

ENGINEERING & METAL

** The German businessmen Herren Siegfried Stürmer and K. H. Brandes, both of Langenfeld, Rhld (see No 394), jointly control the new Milan company DISTRIBUTORI AUTOMATICI ELEVENDE Srl (capital Lire 10 million), which has been formed to sell automatic vending machines.

In November 1966 they formed a sales subsidiary in Switzerland as well as in the Netherlands; Automaten-Gesellschaft Elevend AG, Zurich, and Automatenmij NV, Amsterdam.

** The "Grandi Motori" Division of FIAT (see No 406) and the Japanese group MITSUBISHI HEAVY INDUSTRIES LTD, Tokyo have signed a reciprocal technical agreement covering heavy marine diesel engines.

Since 1963, Mitsubishi (see No 266) has been represented by a Milan subsidiary which will now be assured of FIAT's facilities for repairing damaged or worn-out marine engines made by it at the Italian group's yards in Genoa, Naples, Venice etc. In return, servicing of FIAT engines in Japan will be handled in the Mitsubishi yards in Yokohama, Kobe etc.

** The German metal mesh concern BAUSTAHLGEWEBE GmbH, Düsseldorf-Oberkassel has taken 25% in forming Mallas de Acero para la Construcción SA in Madrid (capital Ptas 4 million) for the manufacture of concrete-reinforcing mesh. It takes equal interests in the venture with three local firms: STA INDUSTRIAL ASTURIANA BARBARA SA, Oviedo; FORJAS ALAMBRE DEL CADAGUA SA, Bilbao, and TETRACERO SA, Madrid, (capital Ptas 15 million).

The German company, which holds shares in the Dutch NV Handelsmij Voor Betonstaalmatten, Rotterdam (see No 378) is jointly owned by a number of Ruhr iron and steel groups. It has DM 10 million capital held as follows: Westfälische Union AF für Eisen - & Drahtindustrie, Hamm (a member of the August Thyssen-Hütte AG group of Duisburg-Hamborn, through Niederrheinische Hütte AG, Duisbourg-Hamborn) - 31.15%; Westfälische Drahtindustrie, Hamm (of the Fried Krupp, Essen group) - 16.47%; Felten & Guillaume Carlswerk Eisen & Stahl AG, Köln-Mülheim (controlled by ARBED - Acieries Reunies de Burbach-Eich-Dudelange SA, Luxembourg) - 18.7%; Hüttenwerk Oberhausen AG, Oberhausen (Haniel group) - 10.8%; Klöckner-Werke AG, Duisburg - 8.13%; Rösler-Draht AG, Amern bz Düsseldorf - 7.55%, and Hoesch AG Hüttenwerke, Dortmund (linked with Kon Ned Hoogovens & Staalfabrieken NV, Ijmuiden) - 7.2%.

** The subsidiary of the Chicago group JUPITER CORP, specialising in research and development of cryogenic equipment for food preservation and drying INTEGRAL PROCESS SYSTEMS INC, Rosemont, Illinois (see No 369, and below) has strengthened its technical links with the Dutch engineering and chemical group MULDER VOGEM NV (see No 400), which already uses its patents. A joint manufacturing and marketing subsidiary has been formed in Amsterdam as CRYOTRANSPORT NV with a branch at Nieuw-Vennep. The Dutch share of the authorised capital of Fl 1.5 million has come from a subsidiary of the group Mulder-Vogem International NV, Amsterdam.

** The Dutch group MULDER VOGEM NV, Nieuw-Vennep (see above) has taken equal shares with its affiliate VAN LEER'S VATENFABRIEKEN NV, Amsterdam, in forming a company to make special metal containers and 1,300 litre insulated tanks for transporting and storing very low temperature liquids (see No 369). Mulder Vogem recently established financial links with the American, Integral Process Systems Inc (whose licences it was already using), and the two formed a joint subsidiary called Cryotransport NV to produce cryogenic machinery.

The new company is called Cryo Transport Produkten NV, has Fl 5 million authorised capital, and is directed by Messrs D. H. Douwes and B. W. Mulder (representing Mulder Vogem International NV, Amsterdam, which holds a direct 50% interest) and O. J. Van Leer and R. Zuideveld of Aylesbury, Bucks, for Van Leer's. The latter recently increased its capital to Fl 4 million, and this enabled Mulder Vogem to increase its interest to 30%.

** The British manufacturer of hoists, excavators, lifts and mobile cranes BRITISH HOIST & CRANE ENGINEERING CO LTD, Compton, Berkshire, (see No 295) has decided to close down its Milan subsidiary B.H.C. ITALIA SpA, formed three years ago with a capital of Lire 1 million.

With Mr. John A. Dick as president, the British group has agents in many European countries as well as a Swiss sales subsidiary.

** The Canadian group HAMILTON COTTON CO LTD, Hamilton, Ontario (see No 365) has strengthened its interest in the Belgian machinery leasing concern BENELOCA SA, Ixelles, Brussels by raising its shareholding (held directly and through its subsidiary Hamilton Leasing Ltd) from 35% to 39.3%.

Beneloca SA - Cie de Location de Materiel was formed four years ago, and has just raised its starting capital by 300% to Bf 20 million. Belgian interests control the remainder of its capital and this is shared between Finelgaz SA, Brussels (see No 245) a subsidiary of Sofina SA and the Luxembourg holding company Metalchim-Metallurgie, Chimie & Divers SA.

** The West German metallurgical concern STAHLWERKE SÜDWESTFALEN AG, Hüttenal-Geiswald, Siegen (see No 262) has become a 12.7% shareholder in the Brazilian steel works FORJARIA SAO BERNARDO SA, Sao Bernardo do Campo (capital Cruz. 1,775 billion)..

A subsidiary (at over 50%) of Eisenwerk-Gesellschaft Maximilianshütte mbH Sulzbach - Rosenberg (a member of the Flick group) and an affiliate of the Munich Agricola Verwaltungsgesellschaft KG (over 25%) as well as of the insurance concern Allianz Versicherungs AG, Berlin and Munich (5%), the Hüttental firm had a turnover of DM 842 million during the last financial year. With DM 40 million capital, it employs 13,000 persons and has numerous foreign shareholdings: Aciers Fortuna Sarl, Paris, Aciers Fortuna Stalen Pvba, Brussels, Acciai Fortuna SpA, Milan, Fortuna Special Steel Co Ltd, London, Celik Ltd, Istanbul, Aceros Fortuna Comercial Industrial Financiera & Inmobiliaria, Buenos Aires, Aceros Fortuna SA, Mexico.

** The German company FICHTEL & SACHS AG, Schweinfurth (see No 390), manufacturing motors for two-wheelers, gear-boxes, shock-absorbers and industrial and agricultural machinery has just formed a subsidiary in the United States at Cherry Hill, New Jersey. It is called SACHS MOTOR CORP and has a capital of \$200,000. It will promote American sales of 50 to 80 c.c. cylinder capacity mopeds made by NURNBERGER HERCULES-WERKE, Nuremberg, a 93.5% subsidiary of the German group.

The latter (capital DM 45 million) is owned outright by Sachs GmbH of Munich (owned by the Sachs family). It has a turnover of around DM 300 million a year with a staff of 9,000. Its foreign interests include mainly Amortex SA, Brazil; Saund Zweirad Union (India) Pty Ltd, India (through Zweirad Union, Nuremberg); Rotex Werk AG, Wels, Austria; Kurotag AG Gesellschaft Für Industrielle Beteiligungen, Zurich.

** The New York group CONTINENTAL ORE CORP., (headed by Mr Henry J. Leir - see No 399) has strengthened its already considerable Common Market sales interests by forming a Luxembourg subsidiary ALUMINIUM CONTINENTAL SA. With Mr Leir as president and run by M. Roger S. Ehrmann, the new concern will act as broker for, trade in and transport bauxite, aluminium, alumina and related products. Nearly all the capital of F. Lux 150,000 has been put up by a subsidiary Continental Aluminium Corp, New York.

The latter took a minority interest in the formation six years ago of Aluminium-Raeren SA, which became Alcan Aluminium Raeren SA when the Canadian ALCAN-Aluminium Ltd, Montreal took over control (see No 402).

** MCQUAY EUROPA SpA, Ariccia, Rome, the only Common Market offshoot of the American refrigeration, air-conditioning and ventilation concern, MCQUAY INC, Minneapolis (see No 267), has extended its sales network by opening a branch in Milan. The Ariccia concern (headed by Sig. F. Stanziani - capital Lire 20 million) holds licences from the American company, but is financially independent. Since 1963, McQuay has been linked with Air Con of Ariccia for the manufacture of air conditioning plant.

McQuay's equipment is also manufactured in Britain by L. Sterne & Co Ltd, London, and its Glasgow subsidiary David Scott & Co Ltd, under a licensing agreement made late in 1964.

** The German heating equipment and oil burner manufacturer MAX WEISHAUPT GmbH, Schwendi, Württemberg, has extended its French trading interests: its subsidiary MONARCH FRANCE SA, Thionville, Moselle, has gained control of the heating materials concern PROTHERMIX Sarl, Charenton, Seine (capital Ff 70,000), and wound it up.

Monarch France, which was formerly at Arceuil, Hauts-de-Seine (capital Ff 300,000), has a sister company in Brussels called Belgian Monarch, the capital of which was raised recently to Bf 10 million.

** AEROMATIC FRANCE Sarl, Paris, formed in 1963 by the Swiss company AEROMATIC AG, Muttensz, to make and sell the parent company's drying, heating and air-conditioning equipment, has been wound up. In 1966 its capital was raised from Sf 200,000 to 500,000.

FINANCE

** The Swedish state-owned merchant bank SVERIGES KREDITBANK A/B, Stockholm, has formed an investment and finance subsidiary in Luxembourg under the name of CREDENTIA SA HOLDING. The new company has a capital of \$40,000 (virtually fully paid-up by the bank's subsidiary A/B CREDENTIA, Stockholm). The directors are Messrs. C. H. Nordlander, Bromma, B. Danielson and P. H. Keussen (directors of Severiges Kreditbank).

** After having opened branches in Paris (see No 386), London, Madrid and Hong Kong, the New York merchant bank MARINE MIDLAND GRACE TRUST CO OF NEW YORK is about to open one in Frankfurt. The founder company was itself formed by the merger of Marine Midland Trust Corp, New York, and Grace National Bank (a member of the chemical group W. R. Grace & Co, New York).

** A proposal for a merger between CIE FINANCIERE & INDUSTRIELLE-COFI SA (capital Ff 10 million - see No 345) and CREDIT CHIMIQUE SA (capital Ff 15 million - see No 395) both in Paris, will create financial links between France's leading producers of steel - USINOR SA - and non-ferrous metals - PECHINEY SA. The proposed move will involve COFI being taken over by Credit Chimique, and will

also produce closer links between Cie Financiere de Suez SA (a 25% shareholder since 1964 in COFI) and the Pechiney group, similar to those formed in 1966 between Suez and the Cie de Pont-a-Mousson SA group (see No 340).

Apart from Suez, the COFI banking establishment is affiliated to the investment company Denain-Nord-Est-Longwy SA (a 25% shareholding recently taken by Acieries de Longwy), which has a 68% controlling interest in Usinor SA. Its other shareholders are two investment companies Escaut & Meuse SA and Ste Metallurgique de Senelle-Maubeuge SA (25% each), who are also direct or indirect shareholders in Usinor. Its other main direct interests are: 1) around 12% in Soloval SA, Lomme-le-Lille, Nord (metallurgical products dealers - see No 313), which controls Longometal SA, Paris (an affiliate of Denain-Nord-Est-Longwy, of Escaut & Meuse and of Ste Generale de Fonderie SA); 2) around 5% in Entrepose SA, Paris (see No 391), a steel construction works firm whose control is shared between Vallourec SA and its 30% mother-company Denain-Nord-Est-Longwy.

With M. Max Duval as president, Credit Chimique is controlled equally by Ste Francaise des Combustibles Liquides SA (the shareholding of its subsidiary Huil-combus SA has recently been acquired - see No 406) and the investment company Cie Generale de Participation Industrielle & Financiere SA, Paris (capital raised at end of 1966 to Ff 8 million), itself an almost wholly-owned subsidiary (see No 261) of a holding company, Seichimie SA (a subsidiary of the Pechiney group).

FOOD & DRINK

** The French sugar group STE F. BEGHIN SA, Thumeries, Nord (see No 408), has taken an option on a 24% shareholding in one of the leading French sugar-beet processors in the Somme, C.N.S.R. - CIE NOUVELLE DES SUCRERIES REUNIES SA, Paris (see No 381).

C.N.S.R. (capital Ff 39.6 million) has been linked since 1962 with the Marseilles group Ste des Raffineries de Sucre de Saint-Louis SA (see No 408), and in 1966 absorbed Ste Sucriere de Ham, Ham, Somme, and Sucrerie de Crisolles A. Poulin & Fils, Crisolles, Oise. Apart from these two refineries and another at Eppeville, Somme, it runs a distillery making alcohol from sugar-beet or molasses; it controls Cie Commerciale de Sucreries Reunies, which sells its own products under the "Sol" trade-mark and holds an interest in SICAC-Ste Industrielle & Commerciale d'Applications Chimiques Sarl, Paris, which treats mineral waste from the Eppeville plant.

** Under a recent commercial agreement, the Italian wine and oils firm FRANCESCO BERTOLLI SpA, Lucca, will supply olive-oil to the American group SAFEWAY STORES INC, Oakland, California.

Safeway is one of America's largest supermarket chains (2,173 stores at the end of 1966) with sales of \$3,340 million, and its own sales organisation in several countries abroad, mainly Canada, Australia, United Kingdom (Safeway Food Stores Ltd, London) and Germany (Safeway Supermarkt GmbH, Hamburg).

** Four of the six largest voluntary retail food chains in Europe, A & O, CENTRA, VIVO and IFA have embarked on a concentration scheme aimed at their ultimate merger. Initially, the operation will centre on the French SOPEGROS - STE POUR L'EXPANSION DES GROSSISTES DISTRIBUTEURS SA, Paris (capital and board not fixed), formerly Ste Pour l'Epicerie en Gros, which heads the IFA chain. As a first step, the latter has absorbed Vivo-France SA, Paris, and Sarrebourg, Moselle (capital Ff 12,000), until now a subsidiary of Vivo International NV, Amsterdam (offices in Rotterdam), which heads the Vivo chain.

The Amsterdam company has numerous interests at home, where one of its most recent moves was the formation in November 1966 of Vivo-Selderijk NV, Amsterdam (capital Fl 300,000), in association with NV Groothandel in Kruidenierswaren Unigro, Utrecht. Abroad, it is represented by subsidiaries in West Germany, Belgium, Italy, Sweden and Britain. In the latter, the Vivo network recently merged with that of SPAR, which, like another Dutch group, Union Vege Europeenne - U.V.E., Amsterdam, remains outside the current Common Market reshuffle.

SOPEGROS, a distribution group formed in 1945, is active on both home and foreign markets. In France the group embraces: 1) Somocoda SA (variable capital) which was formed in 1952 for the modernisation and equipping of shops; 2) The National Federation AVAM - Association Volontaire d'Aide Mutuelle, formed in 1956 as a nationwide chain of Sopegros wholesalers and independent associated retailers to implement a pricing policy in favour of the customer; 3) SEDIPA Sarl (capital Ff 10,000), formed in 1958 to publish two monthlies - "Le Guide de l'Epicier Libre-Service" (economic and trade magazine), and "Bonjour Madame" (a women's magazine), and having no connection with Sedipa - Ste d'Etude pur la Distribution de Produits Alimentaires SA, Paris (capital Ff 3 million. The group also has experimental subsidiaries, including, at the retail stage, Ste des Superettes & Supermarches IFA - AVAM SA, Ifaprix SA, Ifaprix Languedoc Sarl and Ste des Superettes & Supermarches Avam de Brie - Champagne & Loing SA; and at the wholesale stage: UFA - Union Francaise d'Alimentation Sarl, Sopeca SA (finance company) and PPOL de Garantie, for the modernisation of small premises. Internationally, the group includes IFA - International Food Association, which was formed in Paris in 1959 and embraces wholesale and retail organisations from ten European countries: IFA (Belgium and Netherlands), Fachring IFA (West Germany and Austria), Favor (Denmark, Norway and Sweden), A.P.T. (Britain) and Anasa-Avam, Spain.

IFA (Sopegros) took over and absorbed Vivo France after the merger of the two groups' international offices in the Netherlands (see No 368), which covered their respective activities in France and the Netherlands.

Sopegros, through Sogedis - Ste Generale de Distribution Bernard, Waymel & Delplanque Reunies, Flers-lez-Lille, Nord, has also taken over the French subsidiary of the Belgian Centra group. The entire regrouping process, which will duly affect the A & O group (see No 390) will gain momentum as sales techniques become more standardised and various other obstacles, mainly legal ones, are removed. An example of this is the fact that in France the "Vivo" trademark is owned by Ste Europeenne de Brasseries SA, Champigneulle, Meurthe-et-Moselle (see No 392), which markets a number of carbonated drinks under it, thus, at the present time, precluding Sopegros' handling of Vivo lines.

**

The world's largest chewing-gum manufacturer, Wm. WRIGLEY JR CO, Chicago (see No 361), has formed a wholly-owned manufacturing and sales subsidiary in Milan called Wrigley Italiana SpA. This has fully paid-up capital of Lire 150 million: its president is Mr. Philip K. Wrigley, and the managing director is Sig. P. L. Pizzorcaro of Milan.

The American group has a branch in Paris (formerly at La Garenne, Colombes - director M. Ernst R. Kalt), and a manufacturing subsidiary at Colmar, Haut-Rhin, called L. A. Dreyfus SA (capital Ff 15,940,000 - see No 254). It has wide European interests, with subsidiaries in Düsseldorf, Amsterdam, Salzburg, Stockholm, etc. One of the directors of its British subsidiary, The Wrigley Co Ltd, Wembley, Middlesex, Mr. Elmer C. de Porce, is manager of the new Italian subsidiary.

**

Combined German and Belgian interests have just invested Bf 500,000 in the establishment in Belgium of IMBISS - INTERNATIONAL MARKET BUSINESS IMPORT SPECIALITY SOCIETY SA, St-Josse-ten-Noode, under the presidency of Karl-Heinz Stock of Bad Nenndorf. The new company is to import and sell food and beverages, and to organise, sell, rent and run restaurants, cafes, hotels and other catering interests.

**

BOTTELMAATSCHAPPIJ ARNHEM NV has just opened the tenth Coca-Cola bottling plant in the Netherlands, under licence from THE COCA-COLA CO (see No 398). The Dutch firm is independent of the American one, and was formed in February 1963 in Arnhem by the Alphen aan den Rijn group Zijerveld's Limonade Industrie NV, which is headed by Mr. Hillem C. Zijerveld.

**

The German canned foods company BOEKLUNDER KONSERVENFABRIK GmbH, Böklund üb Schleswig, has taken over the meat-canning concern HERMANN WITTLINGER KG, Hamburg, which employs 200 people and made a turnover of DM 6 million in 1966.

The Böklund firm is one of the largest European sausage-canning concerns, and had a 1966 turnover of DM 55 million. It is a family concern with DM 1.2 million capital, and employs over 500 people. It already controls Böklunder Konservenvertrieb AG and Böklunder Spedition AG, both in Böklund. It also has three Swiss holding companies in Locarno; Conboholding Sarl, Tefincoholding Sarl and Fintesholding Sarl.

**

The American chemical and foodstuffs concern W. R. GRACE & CO, New York (1966 turnover \$1,279,000), has taken control of the Belgian canning concern MATERNE (turnover around Bf 30 million), which has a factory near St-Quentin, Aisne, run by Materne-France. Apart from its canning interests, it is linked in a joint subsidiary - Frima - with the Belgian Frigoriferes du Littoral, making frozen food products.

Although Grace's main interests are in chemicals, it has long controlled two Dutch chocolate firms, Van Houten (which plans to shut down its French factory in Boulogne) and De Aaan, and recently bought up Leaf Brands, an American producer of chewing-gum launched on the French market last year. In the USA it makes beer, confectionery and snack-foods, as well as controlling shipping interests.

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** Reports from France suggest that the grocery retailing group DOCKS REMOIS-FAMILISTERE which is linked to the CAMAS group (Centrale d'Achats pour Maisons A Succursales) has been the object of a complete or partial take-over bid by a foreign group. The most likely bidders are considered to be the British Cerebos group, IKA - Swedish retailers purchasing group or the Canadian concern Steinberg.

** The Swedish biscuit and cake manufacturer PAEGENS FAMILJBAGERI A/B, Malmö, which went into Germany in November 1966 by forming Pagens Familienbäckerei Vertriebs GmbH in Düsseldorf (see No 387), has now strengthened its position by forming a second subsidiary in Hamburg called Pagens Familjbageri GmbH. This holds shares in and will run another company formed at Werne a.d. Lippe under the name of Pagens Familjbageri GmbH & Co KG, which is directed by Messrs Sven Stevrin, export director of the parent company; Erik Ekegren of Malmö and Carl von Essen of Düsseldorf.

The Swedish company has Kr 2.5 million capital, employs 500 people and makes about 180 tons of foodstuffs daily. In Norway it controls A/S Pagen and A/S 3 Kringlor, both in Oslo.

** The Swiss group NESTLE ALIMENTANA SA, Vevey (see No 408) has strengthened its West German interests with the formation of NESTLE IMMOBILIEN GmbH (capital 12 million) whose manager is Dr. Kurt Kirchhof; the new company will have similar functions to the firm Deutsche Nestle GmbH, Lindau. The most recent move in West Germany by the Swiss group was the formation in early 1967 (see No 394) of a technical assistance firm Nestle Service GmbH (capital DM 21,000).

** The Italian NEGRONI group, based in Cremona, which makes cheeses and delicatessen products has formed a Paris marketing company called SOCIETE D'IMPORTATION & DE COMMERCE DE PRODUITS ALIMENTAIRES.

** BISCOTTES PELLETIER is having talks on the possibility of a link up with another biscuit producing group M.B.R. -Maitres Biscottiers Reunis which heads six companies.

** BISCUITERIE NANTAISE - B.N., Loire-Atlantique is reported as having had close talks with the American GENERAL MILLS who are understood to have made detailed proposals to the Nantes concern. The latter entered into talks with several foreign groups after the breakdown of negotiations - which had lasted over a year - for a regrouping of three leading French biscuit producers, Biscuiterie Alsacienne, Calais, Brun, Maisons-Alfort, Seine, and B.N.

GLASS

** One of the leading American fibre-glass firms CLARK-SCHWEBEL FIBER GLASS CORP, Anderson, South Carolina, a member of the LOWENSTEIN, New York group since the latter gained control of it in 1960, is to build its first EEC factory in Belgium. This will be built in Verviers in association with local interests through a common subsidiary, Clark-Schwebel International, and at a cost of \$2.5 million.

INSURANCE

** Three French insurance groups LA PROVIDENCE SA, Paris, L'ABEILLE SA (see No 404) and LA PAIX SA (see No 350) have made a mutual co-operation agreement covering France. With their subsidiaries' business thus aligned, (this affects La Providence Accidents SA, La Providence Francaise SA, L'Abeille I.G.A.R.D., L'Abeille-Vie SA, La Paix I.A.R.D. and La Paix-Vie SA), the group will be able to strengthen its interests in the high-risk field. The gradual introduction of this common policy will leave each partner financially and administratively independent, and each will also keep its own sales network.

OIL, GAS & PETROCHEMICALS

** The recent division of CALTEX interests in Europe (see No 407) between its two parent companies STANDARD OIL OF CALIFORNIA and TEXACO has had effects in Italy and Benelux, as in Germany.

Consequently, CALTEX ITALIANA, Rome (formerly in Turin), has become CHEVRON OIL ITALIA SpA and come under the outright control of Standard Oil, which has had a subsidiary of its own in Milan for two years, California Oil Italiana SpA (see No 305). On the other hand, Texaco has just formed a subsidiary in Rome, TEXACO PETROLEUM SpA (starting capital Lire 1 million), directed by Messrs. G. H. Gaynor, M. Ardito and V. Ripa di Meana; this will carry the 28.3% share previously held by Caltex in the refinery at San Martino belonging to SARPOM-Raffineria Padana Olii Minerali SpA (see No 304) and will operate several service stations in the Milan and Turin provinces.

In Belgium, Caltex Petroleum SA Belge (Brussels) is now the property of Chevron Oil Europe Inc (subsidiary of the Standard Oil group - director Mr. W. T. F. Slee), which has now been changed to SA Chevron Petroleum Co, but will continue to sell under the Caltex marque. The same goes for the Netherlands, where Caltex Petroleum Mij (Nederland) NV, The Hague and Pernis, has changed its name to Chevron Mij Nederland (indirectly controlled by Standard Oil) and will continue to wear the Caltex colours.

The end of September 1967 will see the expiration of the option (see No 304) taken out by ESSO STANDARD ITALIANA SpA, Rome (formerly in Genoa), a subsidiary of STANDARD OIL CO OF NEW JERSEY, on a 50% shareholding in four chemical and petrochemical subsidiaries of its associate group RUMIANCA-STA PER L'INDUSTRIA CHIMICA & MINERARIA SpA, Turin, at a cost of Lire 9,000 million. The four companies involved are: QUIRINA SpA, Pomezia (capital Lire 2,270 million) and three Sardinian companies in Cagliari, ELETTRIO-CHIMICA INDUSTRIALE SpA (Lire 1,800 million), STARLENE SpA (Lire 2,410 million) and SOCIO SpA (Lire 980 million).

For some years, the American group has held a minority shareholding (about 5%) in Rumianca (see No 274) and is already associated with it in Etilensarda SpA, Cagliari (capital Lire 1,800 million). It also holds an option on 50% in a new Rumianca subsidiary to be formed (capital Lire 2,000 million) at Assemini, Sardinia, for the production of low-density polyethylene.

PAPER & PACKAGING

** The SNI-STE NATIONALE D'INVESTISSEMENT, Brussels (see No 407) has bought shareholdings of 20% each in the largest and oldest Belgian wall-paper manufacturer STE CONCESSIONNAIRE DES USINES PETERS-LACROIX SA, Harin (see No 394) and its parent company SOCOFIN SA, Brussels in order to facilitate expansion. As a result, the first of these has increased its capital to Bf 37.5 million and the second to Bf 187 million. These two moves represent a global investment of Bf 70 million on the part of SNI.

Between its formation in 1963 and the end of 1966, SNI has invested Bf 88.6 million in the paper and printing industries; at the end of the last financial year these accounted for 8.8% in number of its holdings and for 7.47% in value.

PHARMACEUTICALS

** The Dutch group PHILIPS, Eindhoven (see No 407) is to widen its US interests in health products through its New York affiliate PHILIPS ELECTRONICS & PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRIES CORP (see No 390). This is a subsidiary of Consolidated Electronics Industries Corp (controlled by the holding company North American Philips). It has in fact signed a preliminary agreement with the directors of the brush manufacturer Anchor Brush Co, Chicago, Illinois with a view to taking it over.

The latter's commercial interests in Germany have been handled for some time by Medimex Holfeld & Co of Hamburg (see No 285) which is the agent for several American sanitary, medical, chemical and pharmaceutical manufacturers including: Temco International Corp, Washington, D.C., American Hospital Supply Corp, Long Island, C.R. Bard Inc, Murray Hill, New Jersey, Edwards Laboratories Inc, Santa Ana, California, Orthopedic Frame Co, Kalamazoo, Michigan, etc.

** ASCLEPIOS Sarl has just been formed in Paris to produce short scientific documentaries. The capital of the new company Ff 60,000 is controlled by LABORATOIRES SANDOZ Sarl (capital Ff 38 million) with 83.34% and LABORATOIRES SALVOXYL Sarl (capital Ff 750,000) with 16.66%. With MM. R.A. Chatain, Saint-Cloud and A. Geiser, Paris as managers, the new concern has no links at all with the Geneva investment company Asclepios SA (capital Ff 50,000) formed in November 1966.

The founders of the Paris Asclepios are both subsidiaries - through Produits Sandoz SA, Paris (capital Ff 70 million) - of the Basle chemical and pharmaceutical group Sandoz AG. In France most of the group's pharmaceutical products are marketed under the "Salvoxy" brand-name.

** Although agreement in principle covering their merger was made in the autumn of 1966, two leading West German pharmaceutical wholesalers, OTTO STUMPF AG, Nuremberg and GENE & CO, AG, Munich will not now merge. Under the proposal Gene & Co would have been taken over by the former, which would have become Stumpf & Gene AG (see No 385).

PLASTICS

** An important move has just taken place in the French plastics processing sector which will have repercussions throughout the Common Market: ETS ALLIBERT SA, Monestier-de-Clermont, Isere (see No 302), the leading European injection moulding concern, has taken a large minority shareholding in CIE DES PLASTIQUES COSMOS SA, Chatenay-Malabry, Hauts-de-Seine. The Allibert group is now the largest shareholder in this company, which is just increasing its capital from Ff 1.5 to Ff 2.5 million. It will be associated mainly with SALREP-Ste Alsacienne & Lorraine de Recherches d'Exploitation & de Participations SA, Paris (which in December 1965 absorbed Cie Metropolitaine de Gestion SA), with MM Philippe Mayer, president of the company, and of Feralco SA, Paris (see No 398), Francois Megnin, director-general of Feralco, Gamberini (SALREP group) and Claude Jandel (of Bebe-Confort SA - see No 398).

Plastiques Cosmos is linked by co-operation agreements with several European firms in this field: in Germany with Freya-Plastic GmbH, Menden, Westphalia, connected with the Geneva company Metallurgie & Plastic SA, through the Swiss company Metallurgie Romont Holding SA, Romont, Fribourg; in Italy with STIP SpA, a plastics processing firm; in Austria, Heinrich Puzelik; in Denmark, Beeken Plast A/B, Copenhagen, which has handed over to it its processes for disposable packaging; in Belgium, Ets Leon-Fernand Laets SA, Gembloux, whose French subsidiary, Ets Leon-Fernand Laets-France, is based at the Plastiques Cosmos plant at Gaillon, Eure.

On becoming an Allibert affiliate, Cosmos has not only brought with it a large reserve of varied techniques, but also a wide distribution network through its links with Feralco (non-financial). The latter is a subsidiary of the Interlake Iron Corp group of Cleveland, Ohio (see No 306), distributing scaffolding and metal shelving for the British Dexion group (see No 404), whose manufacturing patents it also uses.

M. Mayer is manager of Kiddicraft France Sarl, Paris, subsidiary of the British company Kiddicraft Ltd, Kenley (see No 398), whose toys are manufactured in France by Bebe-Confort, and also director-general of the Paris firm Les Jouets Rationnels SA (see No 382 - president M. Megnin). He retains the presidency of Plastiques Cosmos, but the vice-presidency goes to M. B. Deconinck of Genoble, president of Allibert and vice-president of the company Superior SA, Besancon, Doubs (travel and leather goods), which came under Allibert's control at the end of 1966 after long years of joint operations, including the construction of a plastics and leather-work factory in Abidjan.

Allibert has also pioneered plastic wine-racks in France, mainly through DMS-Distribution de Parques Selectionnees SA, Paris (see No 396). It has a large network of Common Market subsidiaries in Frankfurt, Milan, Brussels, which will facilitate the eventual integration of Plastiques Cosmos' technical partners into the group thus formed.

** The American group E.I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS (see No 401), whose Malines, Belgium, factory, set up in 1959 to make paints and varnishes for industry and automobiles, has just had its capacity doubled, is to build a second factory for its subsidiary Du Pont de Nemours (Belgium) NV, which is directed by M. Philippe Smaelen.

This plant will come into operation at the end of the year, and will produce "Dymetrol" nylon; strapping for wrapping industrial products, fertilizers, chemicals, building materials and domestic appliances. Du Pont de Nemours International SA, Geneva, which has handled European marketing for the group since 1963, will continue to do so.

** An affiliate of the French steel group DE WENDEL & CIE SA (see No 397), the Dutch coal group MIJ. TOT EXPLOITATIE VAN LIMBURGISCHE STEENKOLENMIJNEN, Heerlem is going to take a 40% interest in the synthetic rubber producer RUBBERFABRIK ENGI NV, Heerlem. As a result of this move, the latter company (headed by M. L. M. J. Hermans) will diversify its interests and build new plastics processing workshops at Nuth employing a hundred persons.

The Heerlem coal group is also known as Orange-Nassau Mijnen (and has coal mines in the Limburg). In the Netherlands it holds shares in Limburgische Steenkolenmijnen NV and Transcarbo NV; with its French parent company it shares control of the West German Süddeutsche Drahtindustrie AG, Mannheim-Waldhof.

** IGAV FRANCE Sarl (capital Ff 150,000) has been formed in Lyons with M. Michel Donon as manager to import and sell plastic building panels made by the Italian I.G.A.V. - INDUSTRIA GOMMA ARTICOLI VARI SpA, Pavia.

The latter (president Signor Luigi Brunoldi) has factories at Abbiategrasso, Milano; since 1964 it has been represented in West Germany by IGAV-Kunststoffplattenhandel GmbH, Bielefeld run by Signor G. Stefanelli (see No 255) but since 1965 the latter has been headed by Deutsche IGAV-Kunststoffplatten GmbH (capital DM 200,000).

** GENERAL LATEX & CHEMICAL CORP, Cambridge, Massachusetts, is to add financial links with the Dutch CINDU NV, Uithoorn (see No 370), to the long-standing technical and "know-how" arrangement (see No 326) the two firms have in the field of soft and rigid polyurethane foam. A joint manufacturing subsidiary is to be built at Uithoorn under the name of Boston Cindu Chemie NV: this will go into production late this year with Mr A. J. Dijkman as director, and the Dutch partner will hold 60% of the capital.

Cindu is controlled 50-50 by Utrechtsche Asphaldfabriek NV, The Hague (see No 359) and Teerbedrijf Uithoorn - Tebu NV, the holding company of the Ijmuiden group Koninklijke Nederlandsche Hoogovens & Staalfabrieken NV (see No 406). It recently set up a subsidiary in Uithoorn called Cinduwerven NV (authorised capital Fl 5 million), directed by Mr G. H. C. Theunissen, and specialising in chemicals and resins for cladding, thermal insulation joints etc. Its trade expansion in the Common Market is backed by a wide network of agents and subsidiaries, such as Tebu Belge SA, Destelbergen, Ghent; Minerale Handelsgesellschaft Tebu mbH, Düsseldorf etc.

** The West German manufacturer of plastic household goods, ironmongery, and building supplies PLATE & VOERSTER, Kiersep, Westfalen, has been given permission by the Spanish finance ministry (see No 355) to build a factory making ironmongery and plastic goods in the free-zone of Vigo. This will be run by a subsidiary called FERROPLAST SA, and 85% of production will be exported.

PRINTING & PUBLISHING

** The American publishers CHAPMAN-RHEINHOLD INC, Oradell, New Jersey, has formed an Amsterdam sales subsidiary, CHAPMAN-RHEINHOLD (NEDERLAND) NV run by Mr. Robert S. R. Hutchinson, Bossum. With a capital of Fl 450,000, the directors of the new company are Messrs. Philip H. Hubbard, Westchester, New York, L. Chapman, Greenwich, Connecticut, J. F. Mottershead, Killingworth, Connecticut, J. B. Ross and F. P. Peters.

SERVICES

** The recent decision by the French firm CENTRE D'ANALYSE & DE PROGRAMMATION SA, Paris, and the British COMPUTERS ANALYSTS & PROGRAMMERS LTD, London, to form a joint subsidiary has now been implemented: a new firm has been established in Geneva under the name of Compagnie d'Application a la Programmation (CAP) SA (capital Sf 50,000). The president of the new company is M. Maurice Gouy of Geneva, and the directors are MM. Alexander d'Agapeyeff, London, and Bertrand Asscher (president of the French company).

TEXTILES

** The West German manufacturer of towelling, WUERTTEMBERGISCHE FROTTIERWEBEREI LUSTNAU GmbH, Tübingen, has acquired control of the textile concern VEREINIGTE TRIKOTFABRIKEN VOLLMOELLER AG, Stuttgart-Vaihingen, in which it already had a minority shareholding. The Stuttgart firm is also an affiliate of Deutsche Bank AG, Frankfurt (see No 407), and with a capital of DM 2.7 million, it has some 700 people on its payroll with an annual turnover of around DM 19 million.

Its new parent company (capital DM 6 million) employs over 1,600 people, and is itself a 50% interest of the Schweitzer family, with the Dimler and Hornschuh groups holding minority interests. The latter is owner of the plastics-processing concern Konrad Hornschuh AG, Weissbach, Württemberg.

TRANSPORT

** The Amsterdam transport and warehousing concern, BLAAUWHOED NV (see No 401), which is reorganising its Swiss interests, has wound up its Basle subsidiary, Blaufries Basel AG (capital Sf 500,000), and transferred its assets to Blaufries Speditionen AG, Basle, recently formed with Sf 400,000 capital and Herr Gerrit van Driel as managing director.

The Dutch company has numerous foreign interests, particularly in West Germany, Belgium, Britain and South Africa (see No 353).

TRADE

** The "Kaufhalle" brand name used throughout West Germany by the KAUFHALLE GmbH, Cologne, consumer goods distribution chain will be used in Austria by KAUFHALLE GmbH (capital Sch 100,000), headed by Herren Walter Benesch and Franz Leitner.

The West German concern, whose capital was recently increased from DM 30 million to DM 40 million, employs some 9,000 people, and is a member of RIMPU-Reunion Internationale de Magasins Populaires & Utilitaires (see No 371).

VARIOUS

** The leading American bedding concern SIMMONS CO, New York, has wound up its Frankfurt sales subsidiary formed in May 1965 with DM 400,000 as capital (see No 317).

The American company, whose 1966 turnover reached \$185 million, has interests in Simmons Co AG, Zurich, which controls the Paris Cie Continentale Simmons SA and Simmons Bedding Ltd, Greenford, Middlesex.

** AVIS RENT-A-CAR SYSTEM CORP, Garden City, New York, a member since 1965 of the New York group I.T.T.-INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH CORP, has extended its Common Market network by forming Avis Location de Voitures SA in Luxembourg with Lux F 1,250,000 capital and Messrs. W. V. Morrow Jr., R. K. Pine and W. C. McPike, all of New York, as managers.

AVIS's main renting companies in the EEC are: Avis France SA, Paris, Avis Autonoleggio SpA, Milan, and Avis Autovermietung GmbH, Frankfurt. Further subsidiaries are in Vienna, London, Madrid, etc.

** SOPROBOIS SA, which was formed in Paris in October 1966 with Ff 50,000 capital, has changed its name to WOLMAN-FRANCE SA, though the 10% interest originally taken by the German firm DR WOLMAN GmbH, Sinzheim Kr Bühl, Baden, remains unaltered.

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